

**Introduced by Senator Lieu**

August 18, 2014

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Senate Resolution No. 59—Relative to air quality.

1 WHEREAS, Aviation gasoline, or avgas as it is commonly  
2 known, is utilized in general aviation aircraft that are powered by  
3 internal combustion reciprocating piston engines; and

4 WHEREAS, Avgas is a leaded fuel and its combustion results  
5 in toxic air emissions of lead; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the United States Environmental  
7 Protection Agency (EPA), the operation of general aviation aircraft  
8 is the greatest source of lead emissions in California; and

9 WHEREAS, Lead that is emitted into the air can be inhaled or,  
10 after it settles out of the air, ingested. Ingestion of lead that has  
11 settled onto surfaces is the main way children are exposed to lead  
12 originally released in the air; and

13 WHEREAS, Once in the body, lead is rapidly absorbed into the  
14 bloodstream and results in a broad range of health effects. Public  
15 health officials have concluded that there is no safe level of  
16 exposure to lead; and

17 WHEREAS, Children are especially susceptible to the toxic  
18 effects of lead. Exposure to lead can result in irreversible brain  
19 damage and reduce a person's cognitive function; and

20 WHEREAS, Exposure to low levels of lead early in life have  
21 been linked to effects on a person's intelligence quotient (IQ),  
22 learning, memory, and behavior; and

23 WHEREAS, Lead has been successfully removed from many  
24 consumer goods, including household paint and toys. Lead was  
25 successfully phased out of automobile gas in California in 1992;  
26 and

1 WHEREAS, The EPA adopted a similar program that phased  
2 lead out of automobile gasoline nationwide in 1996. However,  
3 despite successes of lead removal programs, avgas remains a public  
4 health threat due to its high lead content and toxic air emissions;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Lead content of avgas is regulated at the federal  
7 level. All fuels for air transportation must be certified as safe by  
8 the Federal Aviation Administration; and

9 WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)  
10 together with the EPA has developed a goal to identify a viable  
11 unleaded avgas by 2018, which will ultimately eliminate lead  
12 emissions from piston engine aircraft; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate  
14 supports the FAA's initiative to certify safe unleaded aviation fuel  
15 for piston engine aircraft and encourages the FAA and the EPA  
16 to prioritize the development and certification of unleaded aviation  
17 fuel in advance of 2018; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
19 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.